

67. Needs of Nanjinad.

MR. ERAVI PILLAI CHINNATAMBIA PILLAI (*Tovala taluk*) spoke on the following needs of Nanjinad : -

(1) Opening of a road from the 1st furlong, 3rd mile of the Tovala-Tazhakudi road to meet the Tittivila-Aramboly road *via* Kunkumaneri *kulam*, Perianeri *kulam*, etc.

(2) Opening of a road from the 2nd furlong, 2nd mile of the Darsanamcope-Shorlakod road to meet the 4th furlong, 6th mile of the Anantanar.

(3) Opening of a road along the western bank of the Puliurkurichi *kulam* and extension of the same to meet the T. A. road near Seethapal, *via* Alatturayar bank.

(4) Construction of a bridge across the Pazhayar near Veeranallur.

(5) The sides of the Tovala channel should be lined with bricks to prevent leakage of water and consequent insufficiency of water at the tail end. The tanks under the N. P. channel, the Tovala channel and the Ananthanar system and the Tereikal should be deepened annually by removing the silt therefrom.

The above were the absolute needs of the ryots of Nanjinad for the development of paddy cultivation. Easy means of communication for the transport of manure to the fields and agricultural produce therefrom were as necessary to the ryot as a free supply of water.

Owing to the absence of a dispensary at Aramboly, the inhabitants there were put to much hardship and inconvenience for medical relief. The nearest Government hospital was more than seven miles away. If a morning dispensary were opened at Aramboly and an evening dispensary at Tovala, the same medical officer can manage both the institutions and afford medical relief to the inhabitants of both the places. Similar arrangements prevailed for Kottaram and the Cape.

The chief cause of epidemics in Nanjinad was the scarcity of good drinking water in the hot months of the year. Wells should therefore be sunk in all the villages and the sides of the existing tanks should be walled up to prevent the inflow of drainage water.

The hill slopes in Nanjinad afforded good pasture for the cattle and should not therefore be assigned away but should be reserved as grazing grounds. The prime need was not kept in view by the Revenue Department and grazing lands were freely assigned away. Survey No. 1964 of the Erachakulam *pakathy* was an instance in point. Orders should be issued not to register away this and similar lands.

Agricultural implements were as much a necessity to the ryots as manure. The ryots should be allowed to collect materials from forests for agricultural implements free of cost. If necessary, certificates from *Proverthikars* as to actual need might be insisted on to prove *bona fide* applications.

The Forest Department had placed restrictions on the free grazing of foreign cattle and was levying grazing fees. The result was that the poor ryots of the State had to bear an additional burden to the extent of the fees because foreign cattle were necessary for manuring the lands. The restrictions should be removed.

Tamil was the mother-tongue of the people of south Travancore. The Government had recognised the fact and introduced the teaching of Tamil in all primary schools of south Travancore. But there was want of sympathy on the part of the Inspectors of schools in regard to the teaching of Tamil. A Tamil Range should therefore be formed and a Tamil Inspector appointed to inspect all Tamil schools of south Travancore. Pending the appointment of such an Inspector, the inspection work of Tamil schools should be undertaken by the Director of Public Instruction himself.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chinnatambia Pillai, you have grouped five of your points together. I shall take four of them separately. The matters which are within the scope of the Road Board will be referred to it.

With regard to the opening of a hospital at Aramboly, I may repeat what I said in reply to a representation of another member that Government do not intend taking up the question of establishing hospitals and dispensaries piecemeal. They have asked the Administrative Board, Medical Services, to prepare a consolidated scheme or programme for supplying some dispensaries every year, having regard to the relative urgency of the place chosen. Your representation also will be considered in that connection.

The question of supplying good drinking water in Nanjinad is one which has already engaged the attention of Government. You yourself know that Government have sunk a number of wells already in Nanjinad to serve the needs of the people.

Then with regard to the prohibition regarding registry of lands on the hill slopes with a view to conserve them for grazing purposes, there is already a rule that some extent of land on the crests of hills should not be registered, but no such general rule can be applied to all hill slopes. If the necessity for a grazing ground in any particular locality is brought to the notice of Government, it will be considered. Each case has to be considered on its own merits.

As regards the issue of free passes to ryots for removing materials required for agricultural implements from the reserved forests, Government have considered the question in its various aspects and have decided that the Forest Department should supply the materials at cost price to the ryots. As it is, the Forest Department has been instructed to do it and is doing it. The Forest authorities are cutting trees and offering them at moderate prices to cultivators at first hand so that I do not see there can exist any real hardship. As a matter of fact, it is a great advantage to them, as the ryots are having the materials at their doors.

As for the grant of permission for grazing foreign cattle free of any fee in the reserved forests, on the face of it, it seems to me that it is unreasonable on your part to ask the Government and the Forest Department not only to allow our own cattle to graze on our grounds but foreign cattle also to graze free of cost. It is not right on your part to plead that cattle outside the State should also have the same privilege. Government at present are not in a position to accept that suggestion of yours. It will be noted.

With regard to the formation of a Tamil Range for purposes of inspecting Tamil Schools, as you yourself admitted, recently the needs of the Tamil language, which is the mother-tongue of the people of Nanjinad, have been recognised by Government and your requests on behalf of the Tamilians have been attended to carefully. It has been the policy of the Government and the Education Department to appoint Tamil-knowing Assistant Inspectors in Tamil areas. It is not possible to insist that a Range Inspector or the head of the Education Department should always be a person who knows Tamil also. But Inspectors or Assistant Inspectors who know Tamil will alone be ordinarily posted in Tamil areas. I do not think there is much ground for your complaint.

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MR. KANAKKU SIVASUBRAHMANIA PILLAI AZHAKIYA-NAYAKAM PILLAI (*Agastiswaram taluk*) urged the need for raising the surplus level of the Kodayar *marukal* by 3 feet so as to ensure a sufficient supply of water to the newly converted lands. The matter had been brought to the notice of the Government by the Economic Development Board also. Many converted wet lands were now subjected to drought and failure of crops owing to scarcity of water at the proper time. The proposed work was therefore absolutely necessary.

Breaches in the Tovala channel were not closed promptly and consequently the lands commanded by the channel were not getting an adequate supply of water at the proper season. To prevent such breaches, the right bank of the channel adjacent to the hill slopes in Azhakiyapandipuram, Kadukkarai and other places should be strengthened.

The N. P. Channel and other irrigation channels should always be maintained properly by the removal of silt whenever it accumulated and deepening them wherever necessary.

The mission dam at Tamarakulam was a source of danger to an extent of about 5,000 acres of wet land as the Pazhayar was silted to a depth of 10 feet thereby. If the dam was to continue, the river would be flooded and the adjoining paddy lands devastated. There was also a possibility of many lives being lost if such a thing occurred. The dam should therefore be removed without further delay.

The gravelled and ungravelled roads in Nanjinad were in a deplorable condition for want of proper maintenance. The roads should be improved at an early date.